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Innovations in EAP oral assessment: the IOA project

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Innovations in EAP oral assessment: the IOA project

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Education and Language Studies

46th Annual IATEFL conference, Glasgow, 19 – 23 March 2012



Overview

- Current state of oral language assessment
- Technology in oral language assessment
- The Interactive Oral Assessment project
- Research methodology
- Key findings
- Conclusion and implications
- Questions and suggestions



Current state of oral language assessment

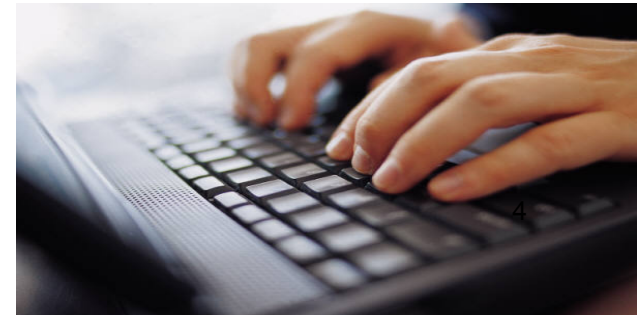
- Ability to speak a language (Luoma 2004)
 - Interaction with someone
 - Social activity
 - Situation-based
- Speaking: tasks
 - Communicative functions
 - Individual presentations, pair and group





Technology in oral language assessment

- Increasing use of computer technology in language tests (e.g., see Chapelle & Douglas 2006); esp. commercial tests (e.g., TOEFL iBT™); DIALANG
- Use of technology for oral assessment – limited interaction (e.g., recorded presentation, current practices in DoL)
- Ongoing debate: human versus machine scoring (Xi 2010)
- Flexibility?



The Interactive Oral Assessment (IOA) project



Purpose:

- To explore the possibility of using Talkback® for formative and summative assessment of listening and speaking skills





The project

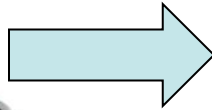
- 2 strands
 - 60 L192 (French Beginners) students
 - 11 L185 (EAP) students
- Timing :
6 weeks in October/December 2010
- Project components
 - 5 units on Talkback®
 - 2 TMAs
 - Module workspace including module guides, overview of activities, link to the Learnosity website hosting the online review and feedback and a forum common to both strands.

Talkback: On the phone/ Skype



Learnosity

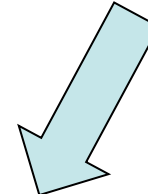
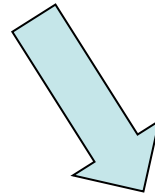
Welcome to the Open University.
Enter your student ID.
Enter your Pin ...
Please enter a 3 digit activity code or
press 0 to review past activity



Audio
questions



Recorded
answers



Playback of questions,
student's answers and
sample answers

Talkback: Online



Listen to this page | Accessibility | Annie Eardley (00083341) | Studerhome | Tutorhome | Intranethome | Sign out | Contact us
The Open University | Study at the OU | About the OU | Research at the OU | Search the OU

FELS-IOA-PILOT FELS-Interactive Oral Assessment Pilot

Turn editing on

News	FELS-IOA-PILOT study planner	Administration
TMA's are ready! 21 Oct 2010 Dear EAP and French students, The TMA's are now ready and available on Talkback... Welcome! 1 Oct 2010 (updated 13 Oct 2010, 21:42) Dear L185 (English for academic purposes) students and L192 (French Beginners) students, Welcome on this pilot module... View all messages in full	Week 0 11 October Welcome to FELS-IOA Pilot. Whether you are an L185 student (English for Academic purposes) or an L192 student (French Beginners), use this week to familiarise yourself with this site and its resources. Don't forget to read the Module Guide! Read the Module guide under the resources page (J04 English for academic purposes purposes) if you are an L185 student or J04 French resources if you are coming from L192. Visit the forum	Turn editing on Settings Assign roles Outcomes Groups Backup Export Statistics Complete logs Questions Files Update audio resources View as student View as tutor
Forums Forum	Week 1 18 October TMA's are ready, Please read the news item or visit the forum! Week 1 EAP input materials for Week 1 activities Week 1 Table of Activities (14:16) Input text for Activity 104 Input text 1 for activity 105 Week 1 activities - French Table of activities (14:58) DOCUMENT 1 (749:58)	Workflow Active task New website created Andy Braidley (10/09/10) Service Delivery Team Please build the initial website for the website updater to complete and check. When you have finished, please click the 'Finish Task' button to hand the site onto the website updater. Use the comments area if you want to pass any information on to the website updater.
Resources J04 Learnosity website Revisited! Available until 2 December 2010. J04 French resources J04 English For Academic Purposes resources Any concern? Email us at: fels@open.ac.uk	Week 2 25 October EAP input materials for week 2 activities Week 2 Table of Activities (18:48) Video for Activities 203 and 204 Input text 1 for Activity 205 Input text 2 for Activity 206 Week 2 activities - French Table of activities (13:58) DOCUMENT 2 (28:58)	Comments
Help using this website Copyright when visiting online Send feedback on this website Thank you website	Week 3 1 November	



The Open University FELS - Interactive Oral Assessment

Student Login

Student ID:

PIN:

Teacher Login

Username:

Password:

Instructions

How to do the activities? You can do the activities in 3 ways

With a phone

- Use this number: +44 (0)330 888 0804
- enter the student ID and PIN sent to you
- enter an activity code (e.g. 101)

Using Skype

- Install Skype
- call learnosity_openuni or click on Call me
- To display the dialpad:
 - click on the arrow pointing down on the right of the volume bar (Windows users)
 - click on the icon left of the volume bar (Mac users)
- click on the arrow pointing down on the right of the volume bar
- enter your student ID and PIN
- enter an activity code (e.g. 101)

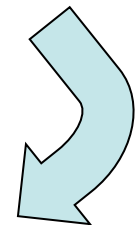
Using the iPhone/iPod Touch Application OU Voice

- download the application from the iTunes Store (Search for OU Voice)
- sync your device with your iTunes library
- select the application
- enter your student ID and PIN
- select the activity you want to try

How to access your sessions (the activities you have done and the TMA's) online

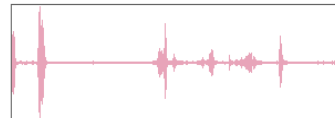
- enter your student ID and PIN into the login box on this Homepage
- select the sessions you want to view via the Talkback Activities' tab or via 'Your sessions' tab to view your sessions either under 'unmarked sessions' (for the project activities) or 'marked sessions' (for TMA's)

[Call me!](#)



Question 1

You should be able to hear a recording in English. If you do not hear anything, check you have followed the instructions on the website. What is your name?



Score of 10

Comment

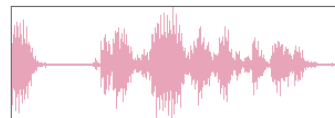
Audio Comment

Sample



Question 2

Now try answering these questions and after each question, play them back. Why are you doing this course?



Score of 10

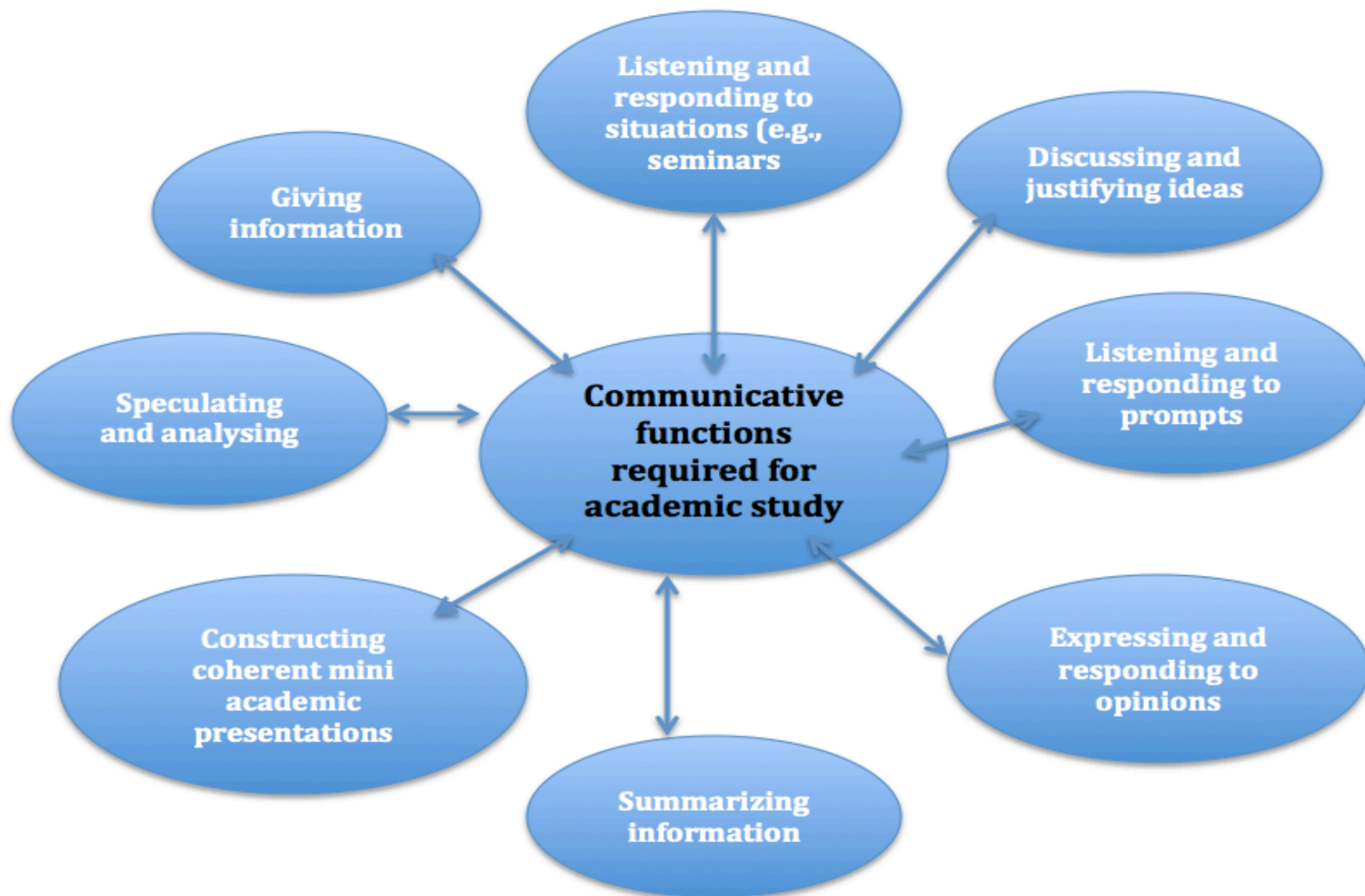
Comment

Audio Comment

Sample



EAP task types

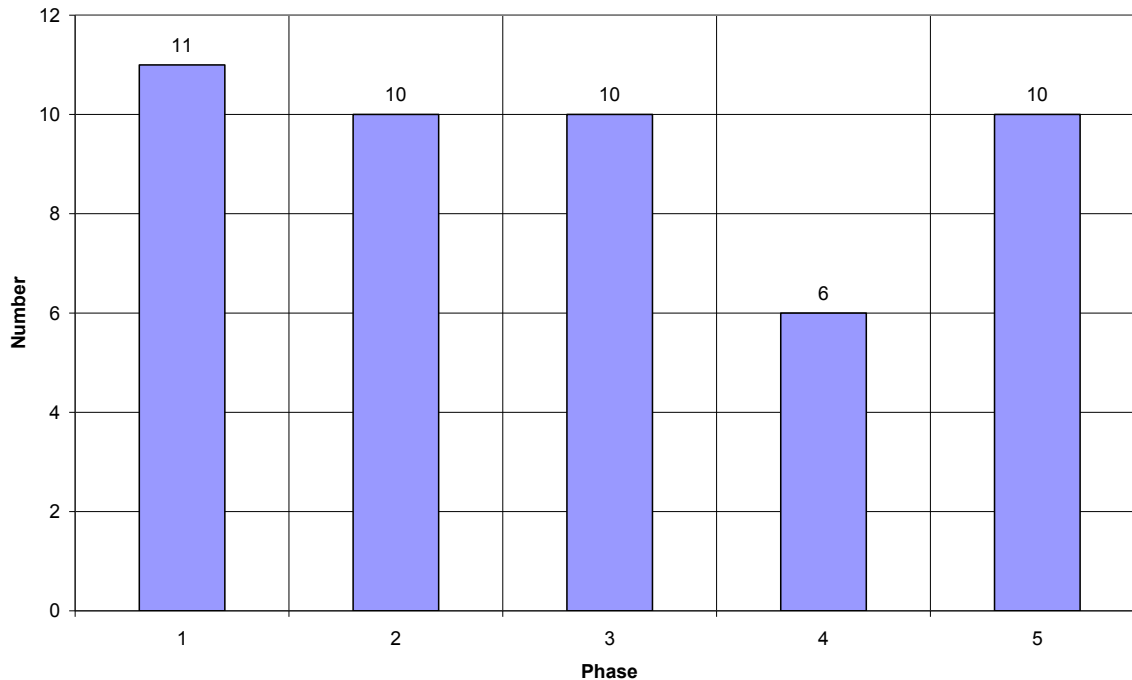


Data collection



- Online weekly surveys (modes of access, functionality, context, activities, TMAs, feedback on TMAs)
- Interviews with selected participants (March 2011)
- Forum (tutors and students)
- Talkback feedback question

Participation for EAP



Number of participants responding to the questionnaire for each phase of the L185 branch of the Interactive oral assessment project

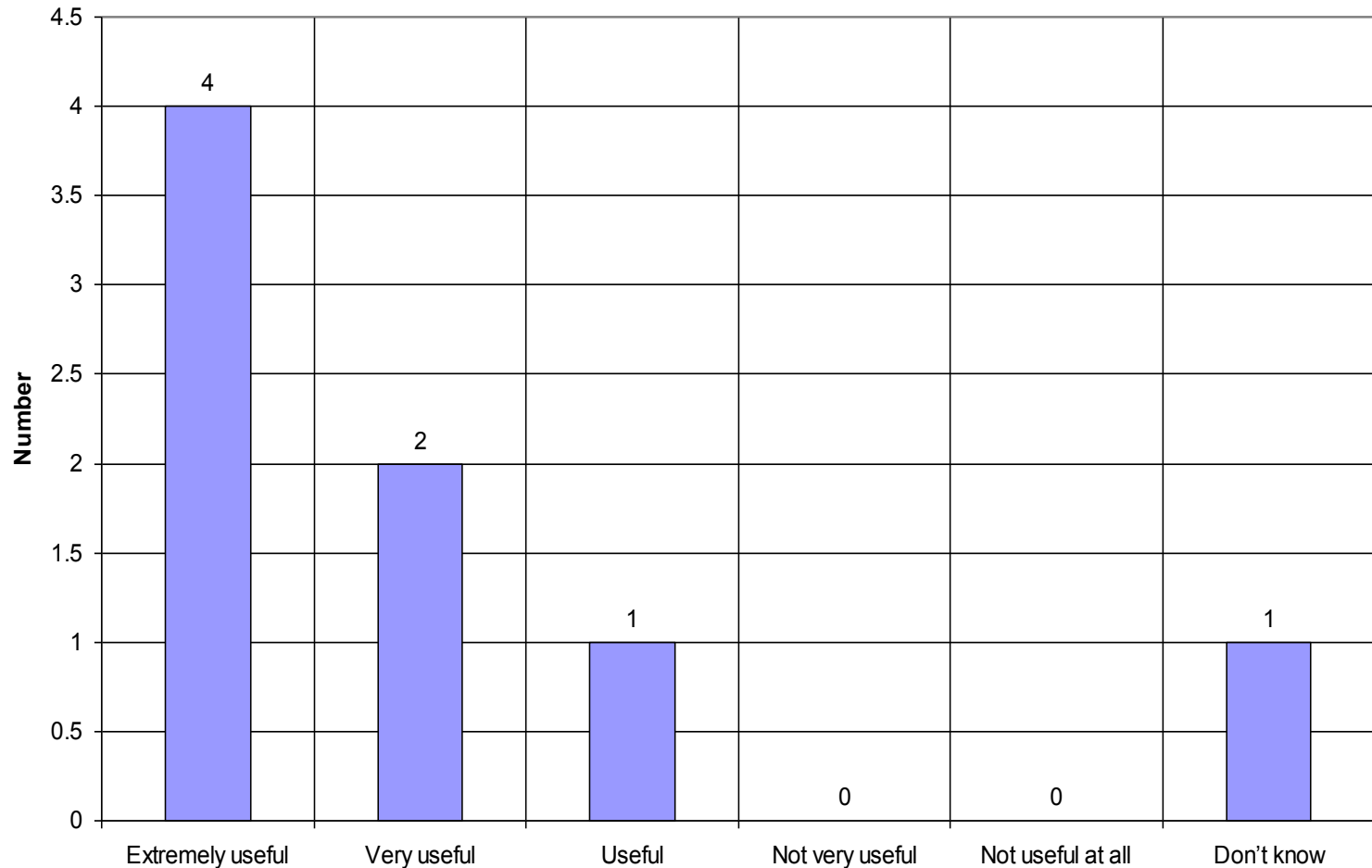
Student preferences (in order of preference)

EAP students: Skype and a landline

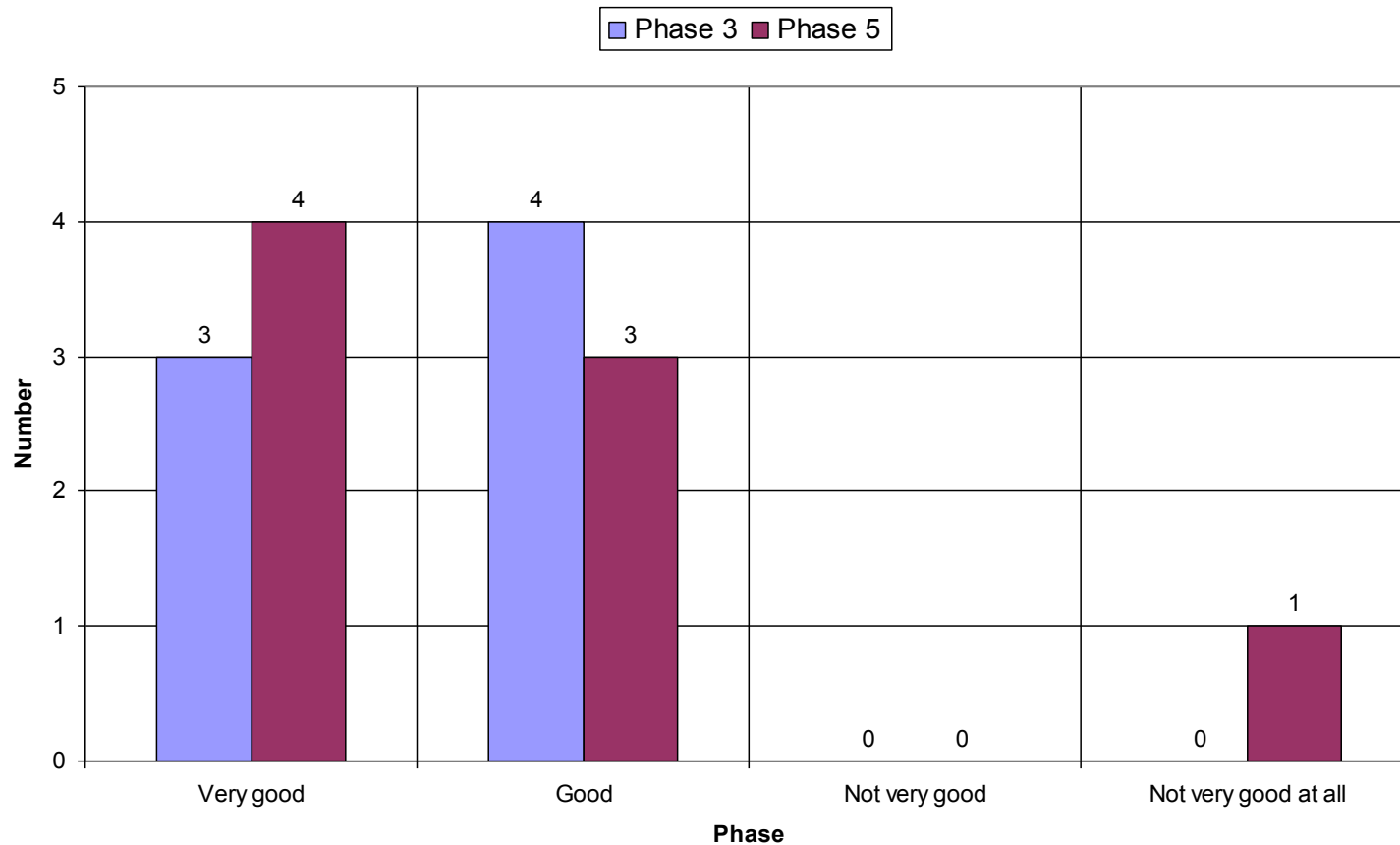
The perception of being 'live'.

Talkback allow to listen, to record, to review or to rerecord activities in very easy way. It also allow to do activities anywhere and in any time (access to the computer is not necessary) ...

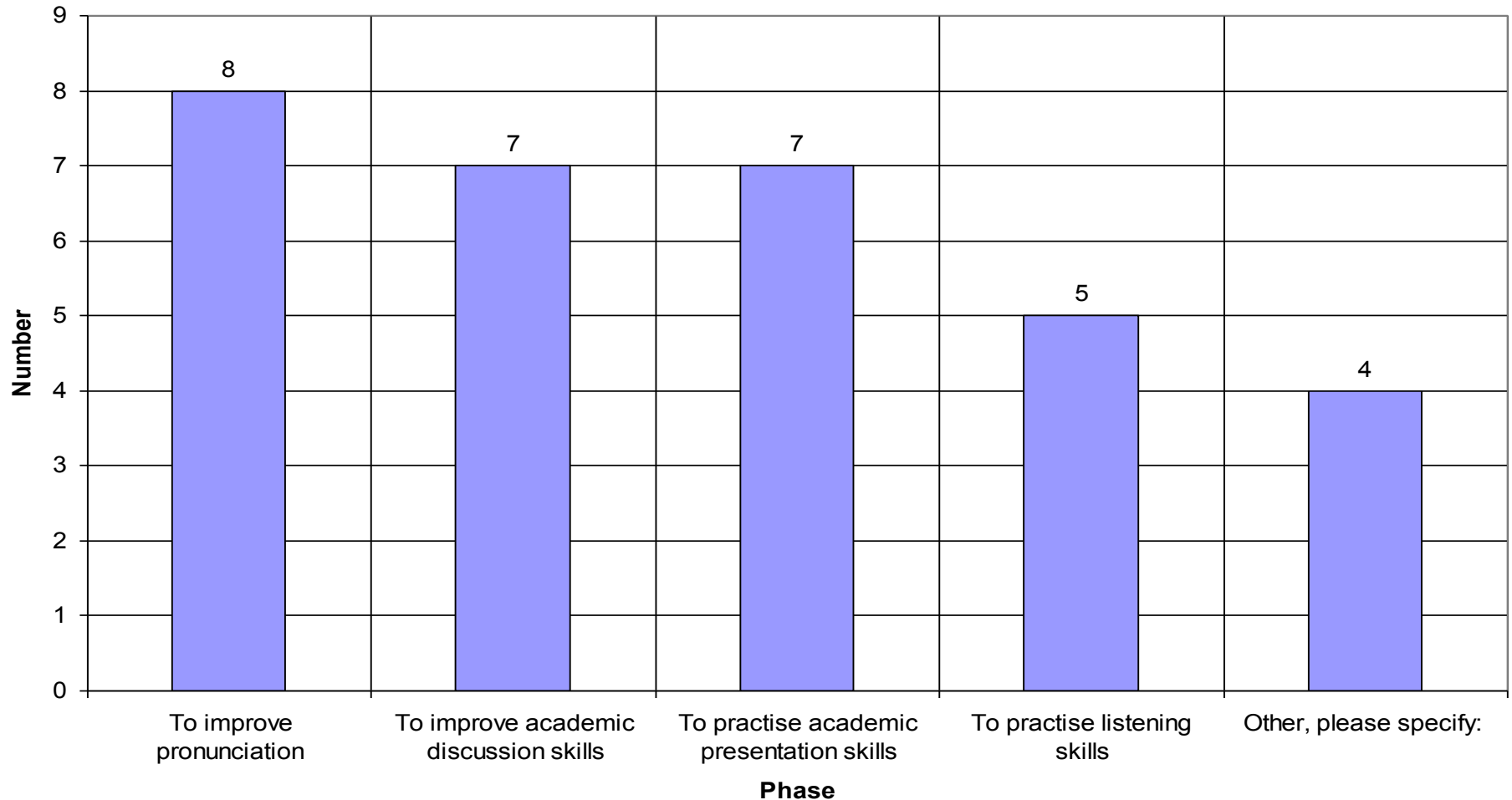
Usefulness of providing speaking activities via Talkback® (EAP)



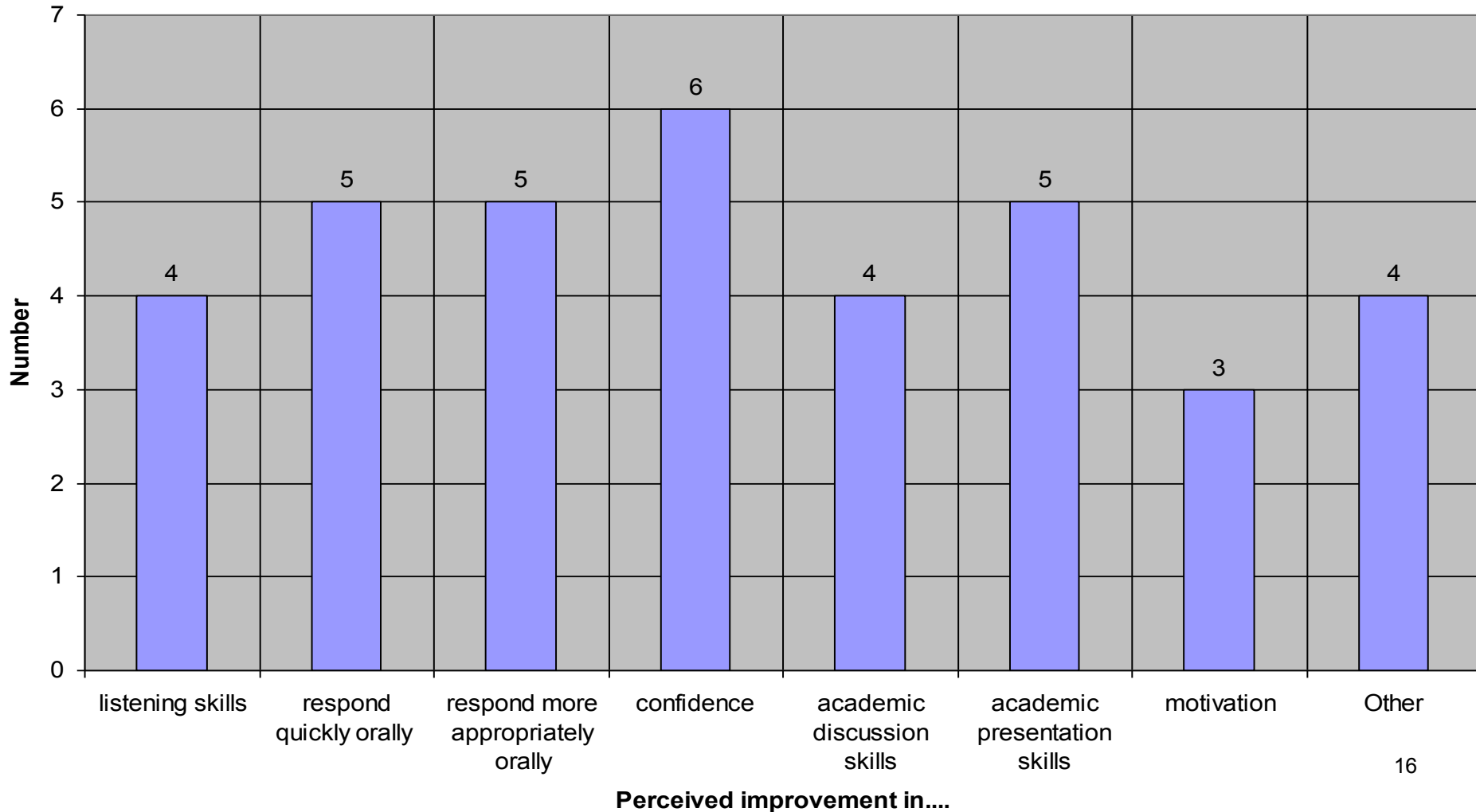
Overall experience of doing TMAs via Talkback® (EAP)



Reasons for participation (EAP)



Perceptions of students at the end of IOA (EAP)



Conclusion and implications



- Talkback provides a more realistic oral assessment context than other tools such as CDs or even computer adaptive tests
- It can be used for both practice and assessment
- Potentially more cost effective than face-to-face and yet authentic
- ‘Instant feedback’ to students: general & personalised
- Provides flexibility to students regarding which tools to use (e.g., phone, skype, etc.) and where and when to do activities
- For maximum effectiveness, Talkback® needs to be integrated into a module
- Talkback® can be integrated into non-language modules but may require ‘field testing’



' 'I have grown in skills, fluency and confidence
(...) Thank you.'

'Doing TMA via Talkback is less stressful, easier, it
save time and avoid complication , for example
submitting TMA in incorrect file.'



Any questions or suggestions?



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References

- Chapelle, C. A., & Douglas, D. (2006). *Assessing language through computer technology*. Cambridge, UK ; New York: Cambridge University Press.
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